

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

a1 The present application claims benefit of International Application No. PCT/CA99/00815, which was published in English and filed on September 7, 1999.

Page 1, under heading "2. BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION", please insert below the first paragraph starting with "It is complicated..." and above the second paragraph starting with "All of the...", the following new paragraphs:

a2 In addition to the above, prior art U.S. Patent 5,007,218 granted April 16, 1991 discloses a masonry wall block system incorporating a plurality of courses of masonry block, the wall system being formed into a unitary structure through the use of post-tensioning rods tied to reinforcing rods in the wall footer and extending through voids in respective blocks to a top plate positioned on top of the wall. German Patent No. 935 328 relates to a building block which contains certain exterior grooves on one side (outside) adapted to provide cable conduits, in which cables can be embodied in mortar or the like. The other side or inner side of the block includes a tongue and groove configuration, also with cable conduit grooves, the tongue of one block interfitting with the grooves of a laterally adjacent block when a wall is constructed.

Page 8, below heading, "4. BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION" and above the first paragraph, please add the following new paragraphs:

a3 The invention in one aspect pertains to a modular building block for use in a building system, the block having top and bottom surfaces, opposed interior and exterior sides, and opposed ends, and the block having a recess extending from the top to bottom surfaces and inwardly at each end. The top and bottom surfaces are complementary in shape for

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interfitting, with one of the top and bottom surfaces having a ridge portion extending the length of the block and the other of the top and bottom surfaces having a groove portion complementary to the ridge portion, whereby when a plurality of the blocks are assembled horizontally and vertically with ridge portions and groove portions of vertically adjacent blocks interfitting to define a wall, the block end recesses define a plurality of vertically oriented ducts adapted to accept structural rods and mortar in selected ones of the ducts to form support columns, and to accept utility conduits in selected others of the ducts without rods and mortar. The invention is characterized wherein the ridge portion and the groove portion are centrally located on the top and bottom surfaces and the block includes a first channel and a second channel on either side of the recesses along the top and bottom -surfaces which channels extend from end to end generally parallel to but laterally inwardly of the interior and exterior surfaces and laterally outwardly of the ridge portion and the groove portion. The first channel is inwardly of the exterior side of the block and the second channel is inwardly of the interior side, the first channel is smaller in cross section than the second channel and is adapted to accommodate sealing means, and the second channel, inward of the interior side, is adapted to accommodate a utility cable whereby when the blocks are assembled, the first channels of horizontally adjacent blocks define means for accommodating sealing means for sealing out weather elements, and the second channels of horizontally adjacent blocks define conduits for utility cables.

Further, the invention comprehends a modular building system for a building, including a visible foundation comprising structural beam elements of reinforced concrete having a plurality of foundation rods extending upwardly therefrom, a plurality of modular blocks for forming walls of the building extending upwardly from the foundation beam elements, the blocks having vertical apertures therethrough and adapted to be assembled into the walls such that a plurality of vertical ducts are formed in the walls by the apertures of

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adjacently assembled blocks. Wall rods have upper and lower ends, the lower ends of the wall rods being connectable to the foundation beam rods at selected locations thereof and adapted to extend upwardly through selected ones of the assembled wall ducts, at least some of the wall rods being of a height where the upper ends are exposed above an assembled wall. Modular floor beams are provided with means for connection of the floor beams to the visible foundation beam elements. Modular first ceiling beams are provided for extending between side walls of the building, the ceiling beams adapted for support and connection to the walls in association with the exposed upper ends of said at least some of the wall rods. A roof structure is formed of modular beams for connection with the walls in association with the exposed upper ends of at least some of the wall rods. The invention is characterized wherein means demountably connect the roof structure to the walls whereby the roof structure is removable from an assembled building whereby the walls may be extended upwardly by additional modular blocks to form a second level, the first ceiling beams forming support for modular flooring of the second level, and the roof structure can be mounted on the extended walls, and further comprising modular wall corner blocks modular flooring windows, doors to complete and enclose the building according to a predetermined design, and further characterized wherein the modular wall blocks have top and bottom surfaces, opposed inner and outer sides and opposite ends, the top and bottom surfaces having complementary recess and protrusion configurations for interfitting vertically adjacent blocks. The modular wall blocks each have a channel in each of the top and bottom surfaces, each channel being inwardly adjacent the outer side whereby when blocks are assembled to form a wall, the channels of adjacent blocks form a conduit for containing means to seal the walls from elements of weather.

The invention further pertains to a method of constructing a building which can be expanded upwardly as, desired, the steps comprising providing a plurality of visual

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foundation beams to form a foundation for the building, the foundation beams including foundation rods extending upwardly therefrom at selected locations, providing a plurality of modular wall blocks for assembly on the foundation beams. In a selected configuration to form walls of the building, certain of the blocks being formed such that window and door apertures can be defined as desired, the modular wall blocks having vertically oriented apertures therethrough and assembled such as to define vertical ducts in an assembled wall, providing a plurality of wall rods and connection means for connecting the wall rods to the foundation rods, the wall rods extending upwardly through selected ones of the wall ducts, at least some of the wall rods having upper ends exposed above an assembled wall, providing ceiling beam holder boxes having means for connection with the exposed upper wall rod ends, of opposed side walls of the building, providing ceiling beams for cooperation with the ceiling beam holder boxes and means to connect the beams to the beam holder boxes, and providing a demountable roof structure for connection to assembled building walls, through connector means and the exposed upper wall rod ends, whereby the building can be upwardly expanded by removing the roof structure and extending the wall rods and walls upwardly to define a second story on which the roof is again detachably mounted.

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Page 14, please change heading, "5. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS OF THE SYSTEM WITH ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS" to "5. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS".

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Page 19, change heading, "7. DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING PROCESS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PARTS AND COMPONENTS LISTING IN SECTION 7," to "7. DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT"

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